

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 13975 ACTION SECSTATE APR 28.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 13975

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA AND THE IEA

REF: PARIS 11272

1. SUMMARY. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR LANTZKE HAS REPORTED A HIGHLY FAVORABLE
ATTITUDE TOWARD IEA MEMBERSHIP AMONG SENIOR OFFICIALS
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WITH WHOM HE MET DURING RECENT VISIT TO CANBERRA.
LANTZKE AND AUSTRALIAN PERMDEL OFFICIALS THINK PROSPECTS
ARE STRONG FOR GOA DECISION THIS YEAR TO JOIN IEA.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT TO CANBERRA (REFTEL),
IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANTZKE HAS REPORTED A
HIGHLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD IEA MEMBERSHIP AMONG

SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN A REVIEW OF THIS QUESTION. LANTZKE MET COLLECTIVELY WITH THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER IEA MEMBERSHIP AND INDIVIDUALLY WITH KEY CABINET MEMBERS CONCERNED WITH ENERGY. WHILE HE DETECTED SOME CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO IEA MEMBERSHIP WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, LANTZKE SAID MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, WHO HAS STRONG INFLUENCE ON ENERGY POLICY, INDICATED HE WAS PREPARED TO JOIN IEA IMMEDIATELY. (NOTE: DURING INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING HERE, CHAIRMAN WOODS WHO WE UNDERSTAND WILL BECOME PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THAT SAME MINISTRY INDICATED HE STRONGLY FAVORED IEA MEMBERSHIP.) LANTZKE SAID GOA OFFICIALS WERE WELL BRIEFED ON REQUIREMENTS FOR IEA ADHERENCE. MAIN SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM RAISED WAS DIFFICULTY GOA WOULD FIND IN MEETING EMERGENCY OIL STOCK REQUIREMENT DUE TO COST, LACK OF RELIABLE STOCK DATA, AND CONSTITUTIONAL DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM COMMONWEALTH/STATE RELATIONSHIP.

3. LANTZKE SAID THAT IN NEXT STEP IN PROCESS TOWARD AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP HE WOULD WRITE A FORMAL LETTER TO AUSTRALIAN PERMREP OUTLINING IN DETAIL REQUIREMENTS FOR IEA ADHERENCE. HE HOPED AUSTRALIAN INTERDEPARTMENTAL OFFICIAL USE

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MENTAL REVIEW WOULD BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER. IF THINGS WENT WELL, HE EXPECTED RESULT OF REVIEW TO BE GOA LETTER OF INTENT TO JOIN IEA ON BASIS OF WHICH GOVERNING BOARD COULD DISCUSS ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT WOULD APPLY. LANTZKE THOUGHT IT LOGICAL THAT ARRANGEMENT BE MADE ALLOWING AUSTRALIA TO PHASE IN COMPLIANCE WITH EMERGENCY STOCK REQUIREMENT.

4. PRIOR TO LANTZKE REPORT SUMMARIZED ABOVE, EUR/RPE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF OECD AFFAIRS AND MISSION ENERGY ADVISER HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH AUSTRALIAN DEPUTY PERMREP AND SCIENCE COUNSELOR. DEPUTY PERMREP SAID THAT ALL DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED IN REVIEW SEEMED FAVORABLE TO IEA MEMBERSHIP. HIS PERSONAL PREDICTION WAS THAT CHANCES OF POSITIVE DECISION WERE ABOUT 85 PERCENT. MAIN REASONS FOR POSITIVE ATTITUDE WERE 1) FACT THAT EARLIER FEARS THAT AGENCY WOULD BE CONFRONTATIONAL VIS A VIS OIL PRODUCERS HAD PROVEN INVALID AND 2) A DESIRE TO GAIN ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATE IN R & D PROGRAM. AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION OFFICIALS ALSO POINTED TO STOCK REQUIREMENTS AS MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM.

DELEGATION OFFICIALS WERE SOMEWHAT LESS OPTIMISTIC
THAN LANTZKE ON TIMETABLE, BUT THOUGHT IT LIKELY
THAT INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE WOULD ISSUE FAVORABLE
REPORT BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

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